

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

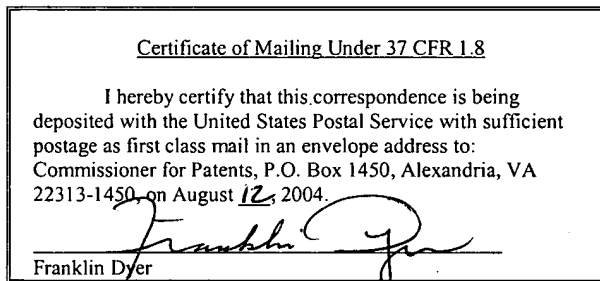
1. (Original) A method for detecting misalignment of two periodic structures placed next to each other so that they are periodic substantially along a first line, comprising:

illuminating a portion of each of the two structures using radiation that is substantially coherent, each of said portions having a dimension along the first line larger than the period of the corresponding structure;

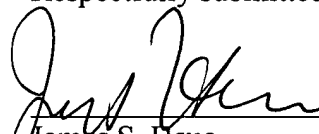
detecting diffracted radiation signals from the illuminated portions of the structures to provide at least one output signal; and

determining from the at least one output signal a misalignment between the structures.

2 - 43. (Cancelled)



Respectfully submitted,


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8/12/04
Date